CHARLESTON

Our Special Account of the Occupation of the City.

I reiting Scenes in the Harbor on the Unfurling of the Old Flag On the Forts.

The City Surrendered by the Mayor and a Large Number of Citizens.

Enthusiastic Reception of Our Troops by the Citizens.

CAPTURE OF ANOTHER BLOCKADE BUNNER

The Duc de Chartres, with a Valuable Cargo, Secured.

THE CITY A COMPLETE WRECK.

Extent of the Damage Done by Gillmore's "Swamp Angel."

Sov. Alken, Dr. Mackey and Other Union Men

Found in the City,

The United States steamer Memphis, eleven guns, left harleston bar at seven o'clock on the morning of Tues-, 21st inst., and arrived here on Sunday.

following is a list of the officers of the Memphis: Acting Masters-R. O. Patterson, commanding; J. B

Engineers—Acting Second Assistant, in charge, C. H. McCarty; P. Anderson; Second Assistant, S. C. McLana-han; Acting Third Assistant, John E. Conner. The Memphis brings as passengers Commander Win. Beynolds, commanding naval depot, Port Royal; Acting

Ensign P. Fagan, Acting Ensign A. A. Franzen, and attempting to run into Charleston on the night of February 18, by the Camelia. She had got part of the way in

on, discovering the fleet to be so far up the harbon suspected something, and attempted to run lirst trfp. Her cargo consisted principally of liquors.

The Memphis has been out about twenty months, and has had steam on for 200 consecutive days. She will

probably go into dry dock for repairs.

When the Memphis left Charleston the American flag
was flying on all the forts in the harbor, and in the city the city, having taken possession of the old Citadel Academy building. Admiral Dahlgren's flagship was

Mr. Oscar G. Sawyer's Despatch. CHARLESTON, S. C., Feb. 20, 1866.

MOVEMENTS ON EVACUATING THE CITY. The glorious intelligence of the evacuation by General nelfinnig's forces, has doubtless reached you before this other through rebel sources or by the Fulton. The de of the great event that it was impossible to give more

General Hardee, who had watched with increasing un eminess the operations of General Potter at Bull's bay, threatening the only line of communication left him to withdraw his forces upon, hurriedly prepared to evacuy our vigliant scouts, lookouts and signal officers and

on of Sullivan's Island and Point Pleasant quietly with frawing and retreating over the road by Christ's church. Railroad, as did the garrison on James Island, which wa

Shortly after daylight it was discovered that ther the works on James Island. Lieutenant Colonel Bennett mending Morris Island, immediately despatched Major Riennessy, of the Fifty-second Pennsylvania Volunteers, to Fort Sumter, in a small boat, to ascertain whether the fort was evacuated. Major Hennessy proceeded to Sum-ter, and soon waved the old Stars and Stripes over the been torn down in April, 1861. The sight of the old flag sa Sumter was an assurance that the enemy had evacu every demonstration of joy by all, on ship and sa shore. Another boat, in charge of Lieutenant Hacksent to Fort Moultrie to take possession of that work, and raise again the national colors upon its parapet The navy, anxious to share in the honors of the day, also launched a boat, and strove to gain the beach of Ballivan's Island before the army, and an exciting race easied between the boats of the different branches of the service. Each boat's crew were urged on to the utsiost by their respective commanders, and every nerve most speed. It was a friendly but earnest trial of endirance and skill. Every man felt that the credit and honor of the service rested on himself, and redoubled his exertions to attain success. The race was a close boats being evenly matched; and when one forged a little ahead; it was recognized by the cheers of

Finally, after a hard pull and as fast a race as Charles ton harbor ever witnessed, the army boat, under Lieu benant Hackett, reached the abore in advance. As she buched the officer and crew sprang out on the beach, through the surf, and rushed for the goal. The parapet was soon gained and the flag given to the breeze, amid the cheers of the soldiers and sailors, who had come a moment or two behind him. The fort was found completely evacuated, as were all the works on the

THE OLD PLAG WAS DISPLAYED OVER THE "ACCURES Then the flag floated over Moultrie Licutemant Colonel fty-second Pennsylvania, started out for the city, ying orders to have troops follow. They pulled to the bay, while the robel iron-clads and vessels on and the city itself was burning at vation points. Reaching Fort Ripley, or what is known the Middle Ground battery, the flag was displayed over the work, and waved for a few moments. The party on pushed on to Castle Pinckney, when the same coreat was pulled cautiously, but directly, toward the city hoptile force was observed, but a large number of ne

Bennett immediately landed, and "Old Glory" was dis-played again in the City of Charleston, amid the cheers and cries of joy of the crowd assembled about it. It was a perfect storm of applause and outbursts of unfeigned joy and satisfaction. The negroes, with all their impul-sivenees, were equalled by the whites in their exhibition of satisfaction and pleasure at the great event. They seized the hands of the officers and men, and wept with excess of exultation and delight. Such a scene was never dreamed of by the most enthusiastic believer dreamed of by the most enthusiastic believe

COLONEL BENNETT DEMANDS THE SURRENDER OF THE CTIT. Bennett to advance into the city, as he was informed that a rebel brigade was still at the depot, taking the cars, and that a force of cavalry were scouring the city negroes before them. As he had but nine men wan him he confined himself merely to sending to Mayor

Handquarins, United States Forces,
Charleston, S. C., Feb. 18, 1866.

Mayor Charles Machine, Charleston:
Mayor—In the name of the United States government,
I demand the surrender of the city, of which you are the
crecutive officer.

Until further orders all citizens will semain within
their houses.

neir houses.

I have the honor to be, Mayor,
Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
A. G. BENNETT,
Lieutenant Colonel Commanding United States force

MATOR MACBETH'S SURRENDER To this demand Colonel Bennett was subsequently handed, by a committee from the Mayor, consisting of aldermen Gilland and Williams, a letter which he was about to despatch to Morris Island:-

about to despatch to Morris Brand:—
To the General Commanding the Army of the United States at Morris Island:—
Siz.—The military authorities of the Confederate States have evacuated this city. I have remained to enforce law and preserve order until you take such steps as you may think best.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
CHARLES MACBETH, Mayor.

After a brief interview, in which the Aldermen in-formed Colonel Bennett that the city had been fired by the rebels in various places, and that the town threatened by a total destruction, as the firemen were all secreted, in consequence of the operations of the rebel cavalry, who were impressing them shd driving them from the town whenever found; and they desired pro tection from the rebels, in order that the firemen might perform their duty without fear of being seized. To this application Colonel Bennett returned to the Mayor the

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES FORCES, CHARLESTON HARBOR, NEAR ATLANTIC WHARF, Feb. 18, 1866.
MAYOR CHARLES MACRETH—I have the honor to knowledge the receipt of your communication of that. iate. I have in reply thereto to state that the troops under my

command will render every possible assistance to your well disposed citizens in extinguishing the fires now burning.

I have the honor to be, Mayor, very respectfully, &c.,

A. G. BENNETT,

Lieutenant Colonel commanding United States forces,

Alderman Williams, who happened to be mounted on cation. He had not proceeded more than a block or two when he came upon fifty rebel cavalry, who were watch cation. He had not proceeded more than a block or two when he came upon fifty rebel cavalry, who were watch ing affairs. They instantly halted the peace commissioner, and blandly observed that they thought they should be compelled to diamount him, as they were under the impression that they would take the horse in the country. He reflected an instant, and then observed, in a carciess way, that perhaps the Yankees, who had just landed five hundred strong, might object, and he would think of the matter. The amnouncement of the arrival of five hundred Yankees was quite enough for the bold troopers. Without taking his horse or further palayer they wheeled, and rode wildly up Meeting street, an nouncing the appreach of the Yankees to all stragglers, and there was instantly a great commotion and a hurrying off of trains.

Meanwhile the fires were spreading with great rapidity, and threatened to sweep over the city until fifty men from Morris Island reinforced Colonel Bonnett's little handful of men, when he instantly moved up into town with twenty-five men, sending small detachments to take charge of the public buildings and depote.

RESETTIES OF OUR TROOFS BY THE STIBERS.

His march up Meeting street was one continued ovation. Crowds thronged the streets, and cheered, hurrahed, waved handlerchiefs, and in other ways manifested their delicht at the arrival of our troops, and at the sight of the old flag, borne ahead of the little company of colored troops. The officers were mounted on horses, borrowed for the occasion, and could hardly keep their saddles, so many enthusiastic individuals, of both sexes, were at the same time shaking them by the hand, outching hold of their garments, lugging their horses, and welcoming them in other violont styles. Charleston mover witnessed such a scene before, or echoed so loudly

and vertectioning them in other violent spins. We the classes and a scene before, or echoed as foodly to the cheers for "President Lincoln," the "Stars and Stripes," the "Yankee army," and other patriote subjects, as it did on that memorable day. One would suppose that the people had gone mad with joy, It was a universal outburst of joy, and the little band of Yankees moved on with all the side of most honored frends, instead of successful enemies and conquerors. Was this, mideed, the hothed of treason—the very home of disloyalty and rebellion." None would have decamed of it had they witnessed the reception of our flag and troops that day. It was a most wonderful display of loyalty and patriotism.

Colonel Bennett took possession of the Citadel, and sent a describment, and with a the city perhaps, by the timely arrival of our men. The robes had prepared a train for its explosion, but before they could fire it they were driven eawy by our troops. The report that the Arsenal was to be blown up at noon produced the greatest consternation among the citisens residing in the neighborhood. It contained a large quantity of powders and fixed ammunition, and its explosion would have repeated the Savannah catastrophe, with more horrible results. It was saved, however, and the citizens began to return to their deserted residences.

At about one o'clock the last robel who proposed going away had left town, and the deserters and residence in the neighborhood of clock the last robel who proposed going away had left town, and the deserters and residence in the city. They were aided by our troops, who began to arrive in numbers, and after a long struggle the diames were checked in their headway; but not until a large number of buildings were destroyed. A large quantity of cotton, probably two thousand bales, was destroyed, together with a considerable amount of suppless.

The city during these configarations was in an agony of fear. A most horrible catastrophe had occurred in the ourse, of the middle of the configaration of the

cargo of considerable value. She will be sent North for adjudication.

CAPTURE OF ANOTHER BLOCKADE RUNKER.

Apropos of blockade runners, I may here state that a splendid new Glyde built steel paddid-wheel steamer, the Duc de Chartres, came in last night, and was quietly taken possession of off Fort Moultrie, where she had come to an anchor, waiting for daylight togen up to the city. She is a valuable steamer, and is deeply laden, but with what I was unable to learn. The Syran is also a side-wheel steamer, of six or seven hundred tons, and a noted and successful runner. One steamer ran out the night of the evacuation, and will bear to our English friends at Nassau the agreeable and joyful intelligence that their last port is finally blockaded, and that they must hereafter attempt to earn an honest penny in some other loss congenial manner.

Three blockade runners are now due at Charleston. When they come they will probably get through the blockade, which is just now somewhat easy, and will be bagged at the city. We trust our courins will hurry out a great fleet of their bost steamers and send them to this port. We shall receive them most cordially. We like to have them come gowa-days.

A large quantity of property was captured in the city by our forces. The rebels burned a great deal that could be got at; but we are informed that at least ten thousand bales of cotton are in the city, secreted in various places, which the rebel authorities could not reach and destroy. A large quantity of property was captured in the city by our forces. The rebels burned a great deal that could be got at; but we are informed that at least ten thousand over two hundred thousand pounds have already been found and have been turned ever to Captain Fowler, Assistant Commissary of Subsistence on General Schemmelfining's staff. A portion of this will be given the poor. Then there is quite a large quantity of manufactured tobacco already in our hands, and more is coming to light deliy. Some supplies were captured which codd not be destroy

of their armaments.

APPRARANCE OF THE CITY.

The reports of the Charleston editors that the city experienced but little damage from our shells, like nearly all others emanating from the same source, were essentially false. It requires no very extended examination in this lower streets of the city—those near the bay—the satisfy the most sceptical of the fact that our shells were working most serious injury to the town, and that the continuance of the bombardment would make it a mass of rufus, as it had already rendered it untenable to the most corrageous resident. But two persons resided in "Shell town," as some wag named that portion of the city east of the two mile poet, visited by our abelis, and they clung to their firesides with a tenacity of purpose that the most demonstrative and aggressive Parrott shell failed to relax. Though their beds were torn to pieces while they were engaged in their domestic affairs—both being female—sby impertinent shells, and their cultinary affairs seriously damaged by projectiles, their roofs perforated, and ventilators put in front of their dwellings, they would not move, but endorfed the bombardment with a coolness and equanimity rarely found. Perhaps their love of retirement and sectusion may have had something to do with this plucky exhibition, for they were never annoyed by impertinent visits from idle gosspis or tax gatherers. Even the rebel officers, who ordered them away from the dangerous ground, failed to call a third time to ascertain whether or not the order had been obeyed. They lived through the entire borning shell and its sharp explosion, and paid no ront,

although the buildings they occupied suggested heavy rents. Now that quiet and safety are insured they propose to repair and live comfortably once more.

But I was about describing briefly the appearance of the city.

On landing you observe that the wharves are in a very diapidated condition, that tells very plainly that they have not been much in use the past four years. The plametto logs that form the cribs are covered with grass, and the planking is much decayed, full of man traps, and shout worthless so far as cartage is concerned. Advancing up the rickety docks, you come to a parapet of sand, over which peer the muzzles of heavy guns, bearing down the channel, for home defence; then around or over the batteries into the silent streets, covered with the debris from shattered stores and dwellings, and bearing at points a tolerably good crop of grass—the same kind of grass that was to have sprung up in the streets of New York when King Cotton exercised his potent sway. Not a building for blocks here that is exempt from the marks of shot and shell. All have suffered more or less. Here is a fine brown stone bank building, vacant and deserted, with great gaping holes in the sides and roof, through which the sun shines and the rain pours, windows and sashes blown out by expleding shell within, plastering knocked down; counters torn up, floors crushed in, and fragments of mosaic pavement, brokes and roushed, lying around on the floor, mingled with bits of statuary, stained glass and broken parts of chandellers. Building and the fragments through the ceilings, and burst out great patches of brick and mortar, which now lie on the pavement below, untouched since they fell. Every imaginable portion of buildings have been damaged by our fire, and not a single house in this portion rot the town has escaped. Not a building is occupied, save by the brave women to whom I have already referred, and the front doors or windows gape open, through which he would come, and any superior of the item respective vocations oumolested

our fire to any great extent. What magnificent liars were the fugacious editors of the Charleston press:

THE FOOR OF THE CITY.

During the war most of the wealthier classes have left the city and found a temporary home elsewhere; but a large portion of the inhabitants, not well supplied with worldly effects, was compelled to remain. There are now, perhaps, ten or twelve thousand inhabitants in the city, and ninety-nine one hundredths of isome are in extremely reduced circumstances. They have listle or no money available under the different order of things that now exist, and not a very bountful supply of provisions. Cut off from any means for the present to gain a livelihood, they will under for some time to come for the common necessaries of life. Recognizing this state of facts, Colonel Bennett, commandant of the city, has had all the rice and such other subsistence as has been found turned over to Capt. Fowler, Commissary of Subsistence, who, conjointly with Governor Alken, ifon, George F. Williams and Dr. Albert G. Mackey, a committee appointed by Colonel Bennett will distribute them among the poor, and alleviate, in a measure, the pulsering that must ensue. Governor Alken and Dr. Mackey are prominent and well known citizens of this city. The former was the candidate in the memorable content of the content of the city.

design of the United States military authorities to restore order, preserve quiet, regulate government, and prevent any further attempt to nullify or to disregard the laws of the nation.

2 Major R. H. Willoughby, Twenty-first regiment U. S. C. T., is announced as Assistant Provost Marshal, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

Lieutenant Colonel Twenty-first regiment U. S. C. T., commanding city of Charleston, and Provost Marshal Northern District, Department of the South.

Official:—James F. Haviland, First Lieutenant One Hundred and Twenty-seventh regiment N. Y. V., and A. A. I. G.

Colonel Bennett has also issued the following general order, for the better government of the city.

General Orders—No. 2.**

**Headquarters U. S. Forces.*

Charleston Orty, S. G., Ordadel, Feb. 18, 1865.

Hereafter the sale of all mait or alcoholic liquor is strictly prohibited. Any person found guilty of any violation of this order will be immediately placed in confinement, and all property belonging to such person confiscented. The Provost Marshal will require his patrol, police and provost goard to rigidly enforce this order.

By order of Light Colonel A. G. BENNETT,

HENNY H. JENES, Captlin Fifty-second Pennisylvania Volunteers, A. A. A. General.

The order concerning the distribution of food to the needy I als

will report in person to these headquarters for instructions.

3. Hen. William Aiken, Geerge W. Williams, Esq.,
and Dr. Mackey, are appointed a committee of citizens
who will distribute the rice to the poor of the city. By
order of
A. G. BENNETT,
Lieutenant Colonel Twenty-first regiment United States
colored troops, commanding city and Provest Marshal.
JAS. F. HAYLAND, First Lieutenant One Hundred and
Twenty-seventh regiment New York Volunteers, Acting
Assistant Inspecter General.

For the present the citizens will be sllowed to transact
business as usual, under such significations as may be herester placed unon them, as will be seen by a director
which I herewith give:—
Circular No. I.

shal.

James F. Havulann, First Lieutenant, One Hundred and
Twenty-seventh regiment New York Volunteers, Acting
Assistant Inspector General.

but I fancy little will be done.

NEWSPAPERS.

The Charleston Mercury—per excellence the fire eating, last ditch paper of the South, whose editors frantically called upon its readers to die mither than be conquered, and who urged all to make thair-ston positively the last ditch—quiety suspended publication one day, when the prospect of its editors being put in that ditch with a muster in their hands became exceedingly bright and favora-

called upon its readers to die mither than be conquered, and who urged all to make Charleston positively the last ditch—quietly suspended publication one day, when the prospect of its editors being put in that ditch with a mustet in their hands became exceedingly bright and favorable, packed up its type, press and material, and deserted the town, leaving its deluded readers without any stimulus to remain and fight. R was removed to Cheraw, S. C., and, like the Memphis "Appeal, will doubtless become a perambulating sheet in future; and, like the god from whom it derives its name, will steal from place to place, and will finally find the last ditch which it is in search of. It is a winged Mercury now, and will probably keep on the wing while Sherman is sauntering about the country.

The Courier remained and continued publication, merely dropping "Confederate States of America" from its heading, and forgetting to place in its stead United States of America. Its tone was somewhat changed, too, being subdued and neutral. This morning it was taken possession of by Lieutenant Colonel Woodford, Provost Marshal General of this Department, and placed in charge of George Whittemore, correspondent of the New York Times, and George W. Johnson, of the Port Royal New South, who will issue to-morrow morning a loyal paper. Both Mr. Whittemore and Mr. Johnson are gentlemen of talent and experience, and will make a good, live newspaper of the Courier. They will achieve a success, I am sure. All the printing material in the Job offices in town have also been turned over to them.

General Gilmore and staff and a party of gentlemen and lates visited Fort, Sumer to-day in the steamer W. W. Coit. The fort was found to be in a very strong condition for defence. It had nine guns in its armament-world the printing material in the Job offices in town have also been turned over to them.

General Gilmore and staff and a party of gentlemen and accorded to the terry-plein of the work, they would be under a musketry fire from all points which

Horrors of the Evacuation of Charleston.

(From the Charleston Courier, Feb. 20.)

The terrible scenes through which this community has passed since our last issue can only be conceived by those who witnessed the draadful reality. The saddest part of all is the loss of life which occurred between eight and nine o'clock Saturday morning from an accidental explosion of powder and the blowing up of the Northeastern Railroad depot. About one hundred and fitty persons—including men, women and children—were either instantly killed or perished in the flames, and about two hundred wounded. Of the immonse destruction of property no estimate can be formed, but it will amount to several millions.

Early Saturday morning, before the retirement of General Harriee's troops, every building, warehouse or shed, stered with cotton, was fired by a guard detailed for the purpose. The engines were brought out; but with the small force at the disposal of the Fire Department very little cise could be done than to keep the surrounding buildings from igniting. On the western nide of the city the conflagration raged with great fury. On the wharf of the Savannah Railroad depot soveral hundred bales of cotton were awalting shipment on the blockade runners; also several thousand bushels of rough rice. On Lucus street, leading to the deput, was a shed containing twelve hundred bales of cotton, which together with several other sheds and buildings filled with cotton, belonging to private parties, full a prey to the flamma. Lucas' Mill, containing some thirty thousand bushels of rice, and Mr. R. T. Walker's wareliness at the foot of Broad street, niled with commissary storas, were also destroyed.

Shortly after eight o'clock occurred the terrible explosion at the Northeastern Railroad. The explosion was tramendous, and shook the whole city. It appears, from all accounts, that this dreafful catastrophe was caused from the careless handling of powder by some boys, taking handfuls and throwing it into the cotton fire at the depot. In doing this

the adjoining buildings, including the fine large residence of Dr. Seaman Deas, on the northeast comer of Chapel and Alexander streets, all of which were destroyed. The buildings on the opposite side of the street were soon enveloped in fames, and the fire now became unmanageable. All the buildings embraced in the area of four squares on Chapel, Alexander, Washington and Charlotte streets to Calhoun street, with few exceptions, were destroyed. About ten o'clock fire broke out in the large four story brick building of Madam DuRee, at the northeast corner of East Bay and Laurens street. This, with the adjoining building on the northeast corner of Minority street, were all burned. Another fire broke out about eleven o'clock in a range of buildings on the west side of Meeting street, next to the Court House. Five buildings were burned, the walls only were left standing. The slarm of fire Saturday night, in Ward four, was caused by the borning of the inside of a millinery establishment on King street.

In addition to the above fires the new bridge from the city to James Island was set on fire, and was still burning on Sunday night.

The burning and blowing up of the irrea Mads Palmetto.

on Sunday night.

DESTRICTION OF THE GUNDAM.

The burning and blowing up of the iron blads Palmetto State, Chicora and Charlesion was a mignificent spectacle. The Palmette State was the first to explode, and was followed by the Chicora about nine o'clock, and the Charleston about aleven A. M. The latter, it is stated, had twenty ions of guspowder en board. Pieces of the iron plates, red hot, fell on the wherves and set them on fire. By the active exertions of Superintendent Thomas Turner the gas works were maved. The explosions were terrific. Tremendous clouds of smoke went up, forming beautiful wreaths. A full Palmette tree, with its leaves and set man, was noticed by many observers. As the last wreath of smoke disappeared the full form of the rattle-snake in the centre was remarked by many as it gradually faded away.

The Experiment

and wounding six others.

The Rebel Troops Formerly at Charleston Gome to Oppose Sherman.

(From the Raieigh Confederate, Feb. 22.)

We have been informed by a young man (a resident of this place, and whose word can be relied on), who left Charleston, S. C., on Friday evening, that Charleston was evacuated by our troops on Friday night last, and it is now, no doubt, in the enemy's possession. Before leaving government stores of all kinds were removed, as well as a great deal of the heavy ordannee. All guns left were spiked and otherwise disabled. The iron-diad gunboats were sont up Cooper river, and all other shipping destroyed. Our troops had all departed to confront Sherman. Kingsville and Florence were still in possession of our troops by the latest account.

[From the Raieigh Progress, Feb. 22.]

We saw and conversed yesterday with a young gentleman of this city, who left Charleston on Friday, at one o'clock P. M. The last of our forces left Charleston on Friday night, and it is thought the enemy took possession of the city on Sunday. The three gunbods belonging to the Confederate navy that were in the harbor went up Cooper river. Nearly all the government stores, our informant states, were brought off safely, and the cotton in the city was burned. Many of the citizens came away—all, our informant thinks, that could get away. Refugest were piled up at Florence and all along the road. Our forces fell back to Monk's Corner, some thirty miles this side of Charleston. General Hardee's headquarters, it was thought, were at Kingstree. The evacuation of the city was decided on as a strategic movement, and was not the result of any present inability to hold it.

KEY WEST.

KEY WEST, Fin., Feb. 18, 1865. ire City on Shore at Carysfort Res-Probable Total Wreck—Troops and Prismers Taken from Her and Brought to Rey West, dc. The United States steamer Albatross arrived here this

norning, bringing intelligence that the quartermaster's camer Empire City is on shore at Carysfort seef, and is likely to be a total wreck.

At half-past eight o'clock on the night of the 16th inst., while within eight of Carysfort light, distant ten miles, she struck with considerable force. Kedges were im-mediately got out, and a portion of the vessel's cargo,

At hair-past one P. M. on the following day the Albatross went to her assistance; but as there was a strong
easterly wind blowing and a heavy sea running, causing
her to thump heavily, all that could be done was to got
the troops and the prisoners, together with the mails, on
board the Albatross. A wrecking schooner, too, arrived,
and did all that could be done to assist the Empire City.
The troops, prisoners and mails have arrived safely at
this place. The soldiers will be landed here and conveyed on some government vessed to New Orleans. The
convicts will be sent to the Tortugas.

The quartermaster's steamer Reany is about to go to
the assistance of the Empire City, and to bring off the
captain and crew, in the event of there being no possibility of saving the vessel. Several wreckers, also, have
gone to the reef to assist the wrecked vessel and—themsolves. A soldier on board the Empire City died vesterday morning. The place where the steamer struck is an
old wrecking ground, distant ninety miles from Key
West. Five years ago the steamer Menemon Sandford
was wrecked on the identical spot now occupied by the
Empire City.

The Committee of Arrangements of the National Cele-tration of Union Victories, Wm. P. Biodgett, Esq., Chair-

man, were in session the entire day yesterday at the Astor House, attending to the pre-iminaries for the great The committee is composed of the following cutizens:

Wm. P. Blodgett, Chairman; Thomas C. Acton, Elliott C. Cowdin, M. Cooper, Josiah Hadden, Mr. Charles C. Cornell, Supervisor Wm. M. Tweed and Mr. Douglass Taylor.

Cornell, Supervisor Wm. M. Tweed and Mr. Doughast Taylor.

The committee to-day waited upon Mayor Gunther and upon the Presidents of the Boards of Aldermen and Councilmen, and the result of their interview will be reported to the general committee to-day.

The committee also waited upon Major General Sand-dord, who received them with great cordiality, and who subsequently held a lengthy consultation with them at their rooms at the Astor.

From the numerous indications given by our citizens yesterday the celebration will be one of the grandest ever made in this metropolis.

yesterday the celebration will be one of the grandest ever made in this metropolis.

The principal feature of the day will be the imposing procession, which will comprise nearly all the military, firemen and civic societies of this city and Brooklyn. To this send the Chief Engineer and Assistant Engineers of the Fire Department have been invited to meet the committee to-day at noon; and all the trade organizations, Masonic, benefit and civic societies of this city and Brooklyn are cordially uited to notify the committee, through Colonel F. E. Howe at once, at the Astor House, in order that the necessary arrangements can be completed and positions be assigned them in the procession.

through Colonel F. E. Howe at once, at the Astor House, in order that the necessary arrangements can be completed and positions be assigned them in the procession.

The different trades will be represented by emblems of their industry. Many attractive and novel features will be presented in the procession, among which will be a complete model of the original Monitor which fought the Merrimac, and a representation of Fort Sumter as it now appears, after four years' battering from Union guns, with the old flag again floating over it.

The chinese of Trinity will peal out patriotic peans at surrise, noon and sunset.

A full battery of cannon captured from the rebels will form one of the features of the procession, and will be manned by veterars, who will fire malutes at various points.

Among those invited to participate in the celebration are:—Governor Fenton, Lleutenant Governor Alvord, Speaker Haskins, members of the Legislature, Major General Bandford, Mayor Gunther and members of the city government, all editors of the newbers of the city government, all editors of the newbers of the Powler, Admiral Paulding and officers of the Navy Yard, the Judges of the various courts in this city, and all officers of the army and navy in this city.

Merchants, bankers, factories, workshope, shipyards and all places where large numbers of our people may be employed, will undoubtedly respond to the request of the committee, and close their places of business before three o'clock on Saturday, to enable their employes to join in the procession.

All public institutions, private buildings and ships in pert are requested to display their flags from sunrise to sanset.

This grand ovation by the metropolis of the Union to the gallant soldiers and sallors of our trany and navy will certainly surpuss any similar ovasion of a like nature in this country. The responses received from the mechanics and artisens of the city show that all classes are fully alive to its importance, and give grantlying evidence of the whose of our communit

SHERMAN.

HIS ARMY AN AVALANCHE LET LOOSE

It is Rushing Through the Carolinas.

Capture of One Hundred Thousand Bales of Cotton at Columbia.

Cheatham's Corps, of Hood's Old Army, Said to be in South Carolina.

The Safety of Richmond Dependant on Sherman's Annihilation.

His Defeat Required to Break Up the Plan of the Campaign for the Year, &c.,

Capture of Cetton at Columbia.

By reference to the news which we publish from the cichmond papers, it will be seen that the Enquirer, of February 25, gives currency to a rumor that General Sherman is rushing like an avalanche through South Carolina, and has captured one hundred thous cotton at Columbia.

General Cheatham Reported in South

Carolina.
[From the Charlotte (N. C.) Democrat, Feb. 21.] A!though we are within one hundred and ten miles of he most stirring scenes in South Carolina, we know but little of what has occurred or is occurring.

and conflicting. All we certainly know here is, that the city of Columbia is now in possession of the enemy, and that the enemy occupied the place on Friday last, after a fight or heavy skirmish with our troops; and that our troops are now concentrating at a point a few miles this side of Columbia. What sort of a battle took place, and the loss on either side is unknown to the public hero. There are hundreds of reports concerning it, but few if any of them are worth the least credence.

Preparations are being made to guard against loss of public property if the enemy should advance on this

Cheatham, attacked the enemy in the rear on Thursday or Friday last, and captured eight hundred prisoners and a number of wagons. If so, the enemy will not be much disposed to advance in this direction with a fire both in

We learn that the enemy, after getting into Columbia burned all the depots. The cotton stored in the city was either burned by the enemy or our own people. overnment property, or at least a great deal of it, was removed before our troops evacuated the place. The report about a large number of the women and children

being killed is false. morning from below, informs us that a cavalry fight took oad depot was burnt at Columbia, and that caught fire from a shell, exploding some ammunition stored therein, others. Another gentleman states that General Che whipped the enemy at Aiston, S. C., and damaged him

(General Cheatham commands a corps of Hood's old army. The mention of his name in the above connec tion is the only sign which we have observed in the rebel papers tending to confirm the report that the army to which he belongs had been transferred to Sherman's and the uncertainty with which the name is used, lead to the supposition that it is used unadvisedly, and is not to be depended upon as showing that a concentration of forces against Sherman has already been accomplished .-

The Defeat of Sherman to Secure the Safety of Richmond. [From the Richmond Sentinel, Feb. 25.]

Every change of the seat of war begets on uncariness and clarm, not only in the new sections invaded, whose people, unused to war, magnify its evils and dangers, but in the country at large. Nobody seems to consider the relief extended to one section by the removal of the enemy's troops to another, although the section relieved he ten times as extensive as the country newly invaded. The occupation or temporary invasion of new territory is counted for new and additional conquests. Exemption or relief from evil is a negative good, and is never esti mated as it should be by mankind. and normal state, and while we are loud in our complaints of sickness we are never duly grateful for our

To make another rash and desperate "on to Richmend" our enemy has loosened his hold on the whole Mississippi valley where he retains posts, but occupies scarce any territory. He has also given up one-third of Georgia and a large part of Virginia. His expanded operations, his mighty anaconds, have dwindled down to an attempt on Richmond.

A year ago the enemy's demonstrations against Richmond were far more formidable and determined than now, and at the same time he was dealing heavy blows at the whole West and Southwest. Sherman's movement is the key to the present attempt on Richmond. Defeat Sherman and the scheme is at an end. Defeat Sherman plays boldly for a high stake. If he fail his own ruin will be correspondingly complete and irrecoverable, of a first class New York broker, or that of Phaeton when he attempted to drive the chariot of the sun; and it will entitle him, in the estimation of the Yankee nation (who vastly admire whatever is prodigious, whether it be good or bad), to an epitaph like Phacton's

His citus est Phaeton: Curron suriga pateroi, Quem si non tennit, magnis tamen excedit ausia. Half condolling with greatness (or its counterfeit) in dversity, we leave him and his mighty army floundering through the bottomless roads, swamps, bogs, forests and marshes of the South, just as Milton describes Satan (on equal mischief bent) wending his tollsome centre

The Rebels Expect Soon to Startle the Country and Astenish the World. LOUISVILLE, Kv., Feb. 27, 1868

The Journal speaking of Lee's army editorially says:-We have reason to say that the rebels are expevery soon to startle the whole country and astonish the world. No matter what our reason may be, it is a good

General Grant Declines One Hundred Days Men.

On the receipt of the news of the capture of Wilmington Governor Fenton sent a despatch to the Secretary of War offering ten regunents of the State National Guard or one hundred days service in garrisoning the forts at Savannah, Charleston, Wamington and other ports. The offer was referred to General Grant, who declined to accept the regiments. The Secretary of War sent a despatch to Governor Fenton this morning concurring in